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DCR CELEBRATES RENOVATIONS AT CHARLES RIVER RESERVATION PARK

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today celebrated renovations that have been completed at the Charles River Reservation Park in Watertown. The event highlighted the park's recently installed interpretative kiosk, developed through DCR's partnership program.

"The Charles River Reservation Park interpretive kiosk is a wonderful capstone on broader efforts to restore the upper section of the Charles River Reservation," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr.

The four-panel kiosk displays a detailed map of the Charles River Reservation from Watertown Square to Commonwealth Avenue in Newton; the history of restoration efforts along the upper Charles River and the river's ecological habitat; the area's history as a former industrial site and industrial clean-up efforts; and information about native fish species, fish ladders, and the river's alewife, herring, and chard runs. The \$10,000 kiosk project was funded through a DCR partnership program with matching grants from Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA).

The park restoration includes construction of a small footbridge over Laundry Brook; restoration of the Thompson Footbridge over the Charles River; new pathways, sidewalks, and fencing; access areas for fishing and canoe portage; and new benches and plantings.

The \$600,000 park restoration was funded largely with a federal grant, and was completed in fall 2007. The kiosk was installed last week.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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